

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 CU-02 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:WLOWENTHAL:NG

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P 272228Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: SANTIAGO 7655

1. WE HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH FATHER LEWERS BUT HAVE SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTERS TO FATHER HESBURGH AND CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS:

QUOTE: DEAR FATHER HESBURGH: I APPRECIATED HAVING YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 11 AND THE ENCLOSED CORRESPONDENCE WITH GENERAL PINOCHET. OUR PEOPLE HERE AND IN SANTIAGO CONTINUE TO WANT TO BE AS HELPFUL AND ACTIVE AS POSSIBLE IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF ST. GEORGE'S.

AMBASSADOR POPPER HAS DISCUSSED IT A NUMBER OF TIMES WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND VARIOUS CHURCH AUTHORITIES. HE TELLS US THE EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ENSURE THAT YOUR LETTER RECEIVES GENERAL PINOCHET'S PERSONAL ATTENTION. SUCH EFFORTS HAVE SO FAR BEEN KEPT ON AN INFORMAL BASIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONGREGATION'S WISHES. IF YOU THINK A MORE FORMAL APPROACH

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IS NOW CALLED FOR WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO REVIEW THE ALTERNA-

TIVES WITH YOU OR YOUR REPRESENTATIVES - HERE OR IN SANTIAGO.

IT WAS KIND OF YOU TO WISH ME WELL IN MY NEW TASK. ANY

THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ON HOW WE CAN DO THE JOB BETTER IN LATIN AMERICA WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME. WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, WILLIAM D. ROGERS. END QUOTE.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. BRADEMAS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER CONCERNING YOUR RECENT CORRESPONDENCE WITH FATHER WILLIAM LEWERS OF THE HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.

THE DEPARTMENT AND OUR EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO HAVE BEEN KEENLY INTERESTED IN AND CONCERNED WITH THE ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE PROBLEM IN CHILE FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION OF THAT FACILITY. WE HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH FATHER LEWERS, FATHER WARNER AND FATHER HESBURGH ON THE MATTER AND AMBASSADOR POPPER AND HIS STAFF IN SANTIAGO HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH FATHER DONOSO AND OTHERS IN SANTIAGO WHO ARE WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE COLLEGE. OUR EMBASSY HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGREGATION WHO HAVE VISITED CHILE ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS AND WE HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGREGATION.

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR GOOD OFFICES AVAILABLE TO THE HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION WHENEVER IT HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE. WE CONTINUE TO DO SO. OUR ASSISTANCE HAS INVOLVED DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS CHILEAN AUTHORITIES, THE PAPAL NUNCIO IN SANTIAGO AND CARDINAL SILVA, THE ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO.

OUR MOST RECENT INFORMATION CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE IS THAT A PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE CONGREGATION AND THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT FOR RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM WAS AGREED TO BUT IS ENCOUNTERING SOME DIFFICULTIES IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. WE HAVE INFORMED THE CONGREGATION THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE STAND READY TO PROVIDE WHATEVER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE IT MAY CONSIDER USEFUL AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGREGATION SUCH STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO BRING THIS MATTER TO A SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION.

I AM ENCLOSING FOR YOUR FURTHER INFORMATION A COPY OF A LETTER WE HAVE WRITTEN TO FATHER HESBURGH ON THIS MATTER.

CORDIALLY, LINWOOD HOLTON. END QUOTE. BROWN

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